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20 DECEMBER 1955

INDONESIA

- I. President Sukarno is apparently attempting to bring down the Harahap government.
- A. He opposes disciplinary action proposed by Harahap and vice-President Hatta against Air Force officers responsible for 14 December defiance of government's authority.
- B. Incident of 14 December took place at swearing-in ceremony of new cabinet-appointed deputy air chief.
1. Sukarno had approved appointment, but apparently not agreed to early installation of new deputy.
 2. Air Force personnel made show of arms and broke up ceremony.
 3. Air Force (17,000) has not previously been of political importance but lines now drawn are same as in earlier crises (Masjumi, Army, Hatta on one side; National Party, Communists and Sukarno on the other).
- II. In address to an Air Force formation on 19 December, asking for "calmness and unity," Sukarno had at his side Air Force chief Suryadarma, who is believed responsible for the incident; earlier, he had refused Suyadarma's resignation.
- A. Cabinet apparently weakening on decision to take "strong measures"; no arrests yet made.

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III. Sukarno has strong motive for bringing down government in near future.

A. Returns from 15 December elections for constituent assembly will be coming in for next several weeks, and president would no doubt like to have counting "properly" supervised.

B. More important is appointment of twenty members in new parliament, (to represent national minority groups): these 20 may hold balance of power in new parliament.

1. Provisional constitution states these shall be appointed by "the government" and both Harahap and Sukarno claiming privilege.

2. If Sukarno got a rubber stamp cabinet, dispute would become academic.

IV. Harahap will resist pressure to resign, and he is backed by Hatta and the Army.

A. But as the head of a many party coalition government which is due to resign by next April when the new parliament meets his political position is weak.

B. He may not be able to count on full support of small-party members of coalition when parliament reconvene on 10 January.

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